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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,427	04/30/2001	David Gustafsson	3764-96	9839

7590 12/18/2001

Nixon & Vanderhye P.C.
8th Floor
1100 N. Glebe Rd.
Arlington, VA 22201

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1626

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2001

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED: 6

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), ~~or 10 days~~, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-20, 28-30, 32 and 33 are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1-20, 28-30, 32 and 33 are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) 08/860,871.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 4
- Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES--

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-20, 28-30, 32 and 33 are pending in the application.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 08/860,871, filed on July 14, 1997.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-20, 28-30, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, under the definition of R¹, the “or” after the substituent “OR¹⁵” should be changed to an “and”. One of the periods at the end of claim 8 should be deleted. Compounds in claim 10 lack antecedent basis from claim 1 since R⁴ nor R⁵ in claim 1 represent a “phenyl group”. Also see claim 19 for same.

The language “(as appropriate)” found in claims 11-16, makes the claims indefinite because the language is confusing. Claim 17 does not further limit claim 1 because the compounds of claim 17 are not embraced by claim 1. In claim 17, under the definition of D¹ and D², an “or” is needed before “C(O)R^e”. In claim 20, “carrier” is misspelled.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-20, 28-30, 32 and 33 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of copending Application No. 09/214,143 {patent application publication - US 2001/0046981}. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims and the claims in the published application differ only in generic description. The indiscriminate selection of "some" among "many" is prima facie obvious, *In re Lemin*, 141 USPQ 814 (1964). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (ie., an anti-thrombin).

Therefore, the instant compounds would have been suggested to one skilled in the art.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20, 28-30, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vacca et al. {U.S. Pat. 5,629,324} and Ohshima et al. {U.S. Pat. 5,744,487}, each taken alone or in combination with each other.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)

Applicants claim thrombin inhibitors. Vacca et al. (columns 1, 2 and 9) and Ohshima et al. (columns 1, 2, 23, 51, 81 and 193-196) each teach thrombin inhibitors which are structurally similar to the instant claimed compounds.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP §2141.02)

The difference between the compounds of the prior art and the compounds instantly claimed is that of generic description.

Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP §2142-2413)

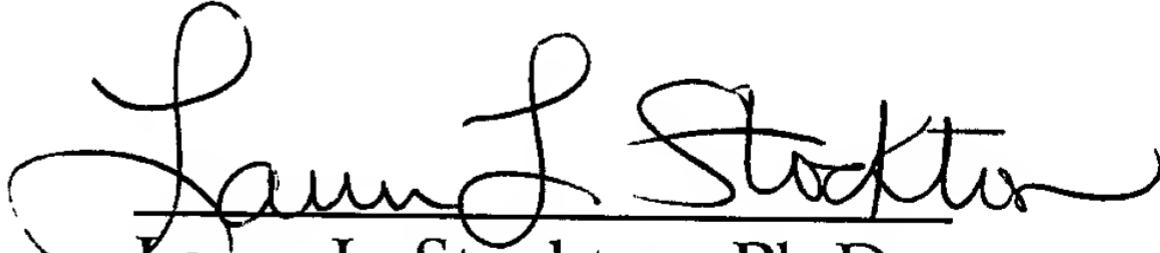
The indiscriminate selection of “some” among “many” is *prima facie* obvious, *In re Lemin*, 141 USPQ 814 (1964). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (ie., an anti-thrombin). Since both Vacca et al. and Ohshima et al. teach thrombin inhibitors which are structurally similar to each other, the combination of the two references would also teach Applicants’ claimed invention. One skilled in the art would have been motivated to prepare

compounds embraced by the reference genera to arrive at the instant claimed compounds with the expectation of obtaining additional beneficial compounds which would be useful as a thrombin inhibitor. Therefore, the instant claimed compounds would have been suggested to one skilled in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1875. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 2:30 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (703) 308-4537.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235, 308-0196 or 305-3290.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4556, 308-4242, 305-1935 or 308-2742.


Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1600

December 17, 2001